

Happy New Year!

PCA is celebrating National Handwriting Day, January 23rd. Celebrate with us by picking up your favorite pen and writing a letter today!

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PCAccent for Jan 2010 - Vol. 2 No. 5  
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Welcome to PCAccent. This newsletter is an adjunct, an "accent" if you will, to the PCA's Web site and the PENnant. The Board of Directors will use PCAccent to keep you informed about PCA news and happenings.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS NEWSLETTER! For comments or questions, send email to PCA President Joel Hamilton. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please send email to Membership Coordinator Kim Sosin. Email addresses for Joel and Kim can be found on the PCA's Web site:

<http://pencollectorsofamerica.com/>

If you have news that would benefit our members, please send an email to Deb Kinney - debkinney@alumni.duke.edu, PCAccent Editor.

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\*\*\* Message from the President - Joel Hamilton \*\*\*  
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2010 is only 21 days old and I feel like I am already behind! Most of the PCA members were not able to join us at the November Annual Meeting but the minutes are on the Web Site

<http://www.pencollectorsofamerica.com/> and you can review them at your convenience. In addition to the election of new officers during the November Board Meeting, your Board is off and running with a lot to do and an agenda for the year which should result in expansion of membership, greater exposure to the public, new activity and a further refined Web Site. The previous Boards have brought us to this point and their vision and direction provides the foundation on which we will start this new construction. I am in hope that we will receive CONSIDERABLE feedback from the members as we tackle the tasks ahead of us. We are your representatives and want to hear from you. Board members names and e-mails are on the web site.

As most of you know, the PCA is in the process of receiving a donation from one of its generous members. The first 200 pens of that gift have been received and appraised and they will be on display the LA Pen Show. The pens will be available for sale through some of the member web sites and all proceeds will go to benefit the PCA.

Mentioned at our Annual Meeting was an idea that could solve our operational funding dilemma. Each year we struggle to make sure that we have enough money to address the ongoing operations of the organization. One of the members suggested that an endowment is the way to assure that we have the dollars to meet our annual operational expenses and thereby freeing up money from dues to use for other activity such as scholarships and acquisition of additional resources for the library. It's a great idea and if each member would make a \$100 donation that would provide a great endowment from which we could draw

operational expenses from the interest earned. As we are a 501 (c)(3) organization, any such donation would be tax deductible.

We recognize that, "the times they are a changing.." (pardon me Bob Dylan) and as such we need to be aware of and engaged in meeting the members wherever they are. While our primary focus is the promotion of the use of writing instruments, we really can't deny that the touch-screen and keyboard are, at least technically, writing instruments and a number of our members use them. We have already established a presence on Facebook and some of our members are tweeting away. Hopefully we will gain greater exposure through cyberspace so we can broaden our outreach efforts. Every Tweet and Blog that talks about pens and other writing instruments is a benefit for PCA.

Ralph Stillwell, a VOLUNTEER, is s dynamo and has already expanded our Pens For Kids program. You've heard the lyrics, "I believe the children are out future,,,"; that phrase is true. Without providing outreach to our kids our membership will keep dwindling. Our PFK is the future of PCA membership and we need volunteers to help make this program come alive at each of the pen shows, no matter how large or small. Allan Quiat is the PCA Volunteer Coordinator and is awaiting your call or e-mail or a hand written letter declaring your interest. Allan's email address is abquiat@yahoo.com.

Have you heard about the Smithsonian Postal Museum - PCA Partnership? Make your Memorial Day Weekend plans to visit the Museum. We PCA have a date to conduct a program that weekend and we'd love to see you and your kids there. We'll showcase what the PCA is all about and why our members love their pens.

And there's more!!! Talk to us and let us hear, read, see, what YOU want and where you want us to go! Best regards, Joel

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\*\*\* Membership update - Kim Sosin \*\*\*  
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December and January are the months for most of the PCA membership renewals. Please do renew! We have some great plans for this year, and want you to be a part of them - the PENnant, the Smithsonian Project, Pens for Kids Programs, pen show activities, and some surprises, too!

We currently have a membership promotion going on for NEW members! Tell your pen friends that if they sign up now, PCA will donate a student membership to the school or learning institution of his or her choice. We would love to get the PENnant into as many student hands as possible! The next generation of pen users and collectors can be quite enthused when given the opportunity. In addition, please become a fan of Pen Collectors of America on Facebook and Twitter! Just put our name in the Facebook search box, and ask to be a fan. Be the first to get news of our activities and promotional.

Important Information: If your membership came due recently and you have an email address on file with us, you should have received an email reminder about renewing. If you didn't get the e-mail, it is probably in your spam folder. We would appreciate it if you would add admin@pencollectorsofamerica.org to your contacts or safe senders list

so that you will receive our updates and information. We will be sending out email reminders again in a week or two. Please watch for them. The PCA website is set up to make it easy to renew. Log into the PCA website to find out your membership status at: <http://www.pencollectorsofamerica.com>. If you have any questions about your membership status, don't hesitate to email the board assistant, Kim Svabik, at [ksvabik@gmail.com](mailto:ksvabik@gmail.com).

In addition to sending emails, we also mailed postcards to those who have not provided us with an email address. Please do mail the postcards back promptly with your check so that your membership is continuous and you don't miss a PENnant!

Finally, we again invite you to explore the website. We continue to improve the content for member information and enjoyment. As an example of what you can find there, check out "Home - PCA Documents." On that page, you can read our Bylaws and find out our Publicity Policy. Okay, so this is not really very exciting stuff, but take a look at some of the documents on the "Library-Reference Library" page!!

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\*\*\* PENnant Update - Richard Jarvis \*\*\*  
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We are now accepting submissions for the upcoming issue of The PENnant. Please contact Richard Jarvis at [wordherder62@gmail.com](mailto:wordherder62@gmail.com) to discuss any submissions you have as articles are now being submitted and we are attempting to have all copy in hand by the end of January. Articles can be of any length but we do require good photographs or other artwork to accompany the articles. We are particularly looking for well-researched articles on historical topics related to pens and writing instruments. Such articles should include any pertinent research materials such as patent documents, scans of catalogs, advertisements, ephemera and other material. If you've got any questions about specifications for artwork, please contact Richard for details on scanning documents, etc.

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\*\*\* Smithsonian Update - Kim Svabik \*\*\*  
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The Smithsonian National Postal Museum kick off event scheduled for May 29, 2010 is getting much commitment from all over the Pen Community. Both vintage collectors and modern manufacturers are coming together as one under the umbrella of the NPM/PCA partnership.

Individual PCA members are facilitating their own writing contests across the nation to encourage publicity for the May Family Festival. TTPatton in Chicago is a front runner in this endeavor, working with Chicago and Barrington 5th grades teachers, Theresa Patton is sponsoring the winning students and a parent's trip to Washington DC to attend this groundbreaking event.

Fahrney's Pens, who has a rich history in the DC area, has also joined the list of those committed to this partnership. They will be carrying our very own PENnant to sell next to Stylus and Pen World publications which will give PCA more exposure in the coming months.

The Pen Collectors of America is working diligently to fulfill our mission to "Keep the history of writing instruments alive through member support and community education."

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\*\*\* Upcoming Pen Club Meetings - Deb Kinney \*\*\*

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#### Pan Pacific Pen Club

Our next meeting will be February 20 in San Jose. This will be a special meeting, including elections, a lecture and demonstration on pen repair from Osman Sumer, and the normal pen selling/trading.

We will start at the regular time, but the meeting will run longer for the repair presentation.

#### Research Triangle Pen Club (NC)

The RTP Pen Club will meet at the Mad Hatter Bake Shop (Broad (or Swift) and Main in Durham - opposite Duke East Campus and in the same shopping center as Whole Foods - this Sunday, 1/24, at 2:00. The topic will be nibs - unusual nibs and the art of making a nib write more smoothly. Bring along some favorite italics, flex nibs, etc, to show off.

Membership in the RTP Pen Club is free, and everyone is invited (the act of coming to a meeting makes you a member, in a manner of speaking). We encourage you to have a cup of coffee, a cookie, or lunch, to make the Mad Hatter feel loved...

#### Midlands Pen Club

The MPC will meet this Sunday, 1/24, at 6 pm in Omaha, NE at Perkins, I-80 and 72nd Street. We have no agenda for the evening except to "show and tell" new and unusual pens. We usually have a light dinner at Perkins (no host). Membership is free and open, so everyone is invited! Contact Kim Sosin (kim@penquest.com) or Carl Kibler (cakibler@aol.com) for more information.

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\*\*\* Words from the Editor - Deb Kinney \*\*\*

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Please help yourself and other members. We are always in need of materials for the library. Anything pen related that interests you will probably be of interest to other members. Current literature, old photos or catalogues - we can use them all. WE can sort out the copyright issues later. If we don't gather it now, we may not have it in the future.

Do you have some time and talent to help the PCA be all that it can be? If so, please contact our outreach coordinator, Allan Quiat, e-mail abquiat@yahoo.com, and let us know what you are interested in doing. Opportunities abound in the areas of membership, Pens for Kids (at the shows), PENnant article generation, etc. Let us hear from you!

Now you can view all upcoming pen shows on our new site:

[http://www.pencollectorsofamerica.com/index.php?option=com\\_events&Itemid=37](http://www.pencollectorsofamerica.com/index.php?option=com_events&Itemid=37)

Nothing says I love you like a free membership to the PCA.

[http://pencollectorsofamerica.com/index.php?option=com\\_acctexp&task=subscribe&Itemid=112](http://pencollectorsofamerica.com/index.php?option=com_acctexp&task=subscribe&Itemid=112)